

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others." ~ Barbara Bush*

*Friday, September 4, 2009*

During the recent ACA conference in Nashville, TN, Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) received the 2009 American Correctional Chaplains' Association (ACCA) Chaplaincy Offender Program Award. Congratulations to all involved!

The Plainfield Correctional SITCON team received an award given by the Indiana Association of Hostage Negotiators (IAHCN) for their accomplishment of placing 3<sup>rd</sup> at a national competition in Texas.

This week, Indiana Women's Prison offenders enjoyed a video presentation from volunteers who journeyed to Sudan, Africa with a delivery of 600 mosquito nets made by the offenders and Oakland City University.

Westville Correctional Facility's collaboration with Purdue University North Central has increased the number of offenders attending college this year. Approximately 200 offenders began the fall semester this week.

Miami Correctional Facility recently held its quarterly staff recall meeting, during which staff received hepatitis training.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility hosted an opportunity fair to assist 47 offenders with their pre-release preparations. Representatives from Ivy Tech, Martin University, and the Department of Workforce Development participated.

Correctional Industrial Facility's "Fifth Sundays Chaplain's Choice" welcomed David Welch, former circuit court judge from Bloomington, Indiana. Mr. Welch brought a special workshop and worship to the chapel.

The Indianapolis Parole Office (PD3) assisted the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff's Department with participation in the "Back to School" Sex-Offender Registry Compliance Sweep.

Over 58 children and 33 offenders participated in a "Day with Dad" program at Putnamville Correctional Facility. All played games, read books, and participated in activities geared toward creating positive memories.

CIF and Pendleton maintenance departments partnered to install a new shingle roof for the Indiana State Police Post located at 21<sup>st</sup> street and Post Road in Indianapolis.

Madison offender Mariam Lakhani won first place at the Area 63 Toastmaster's International Humorous Speech Contest.

Ten artists from the Indiana State Prison Artist Guild have been invited to exhibit arts and crafts at the Lubeznik Art Center in Michigan City, Indiana. The showing will begin September 4 and will run until early November.

Putnamville Correctional Facility's PLUS Program donated \$1000 to the Away Home Shelter located in Greencastle, IN.

Both CIF's and Branchville's PLUS programs donated artwork to the Use What You Got Ministries for their silent auction. Proceeds from the sale will assist offenders' families in their travel to and from visits.

Miami Correctional Facility held its monthly staff meeting with department heads receiving training on performing weekly inspections from Fire Chief Tim Brown and Lester Jeffries, Safety/Hazard Manager.

PLUS offenders at CIF made 500 "Thinking of You" cards for nursing homes in Pendleton, Anderson and New Castle.

Indiana Women's Prison submitted over 200 hand-sewn sleeping bags to the American Legion Rehabilitation Department. The sleeping bags will be given to the Homeless Veterans Stand Down Program.

ISP's Fiscal Department raised \$168.31 from a brownies sale for Stepping Stones, a Michigan City women's shelter.

Plainfield Correctional Facility recognized staff winners of its "Biggest Loser" competition. Derrick Hobbs won the individual competition, and William Creamean, Derrick Hobbs, Hannah Whitaker and Ron Turner won as a team.

Correctional Industrial Facility donated over 50 units of blood to the American Red Cross this week.

Miami Correctional Facility hosted a film crew as they filmed portions of the prison for an upcoming National Geographic Channel series. The show needed footage of a working prison with real offenders and custody staff.

The State Employees' Community Campaign (SECC) kicked off this week. Check out [www.insecc.org](http://www.insecc.org) to contribute!

*From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner*